Remarks

In the application, claims 18 through 31 are pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

The Office Action dated July 27, 2004, has been carefully considered. The Office Action objects to the inventors' oath. Claims 1 through 8 are objected to because they describe a "service" rather than a "method" or a "process." Claims 9 through 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed toward non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 17, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0133573 ("Matsuda"). Claim 9 is rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,948,055 ("Pulsipher"). Claims 3, 4, 6, 15, 16, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of Matsuda. Finally, claims 10 through 12 are rejected as obvious in light of Pulsipher.

Applicants respectfully object to the rejection of independent claim 18. This rejection (along with that of a few other claims) reads, in its entirety:

> 19. As to claims 15-16 and 18-19, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1, 4-6 and 13-14, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1, 4-6 and 13-14 above.

Claim 18 reads:

> 18. A method for determining a connectivity type for a computing device's network interface, the method comprising:
> if an address of the computing device on the interface is a valid, private address, and if no gateway is found on the interface, then determining that the interface's connectivity type is ad hoc;
> else if an address of the computing device on the interface is a valid, public address, and if a specific name server is configured on the interface, and if a domain is configured on the interface, then determining that the interface's connectivity type is managed;
> else if an address of the computing device on the interface is a valid address, and if a connectivity services beacon is received on the interface, then determining that the interface's connectivity type is unmanaged;
> else determining that the interface's connectivity type is unknown.

Of the claims listed in the above quoted paragraph 19 of the Office Action, only claims 5 and 6 are relevant to the subject matter of claim 18 (connectivity type). These two claims (now cancelled) originally read:

5. The service of claim 1 further comprising determining a connectivity type for a logical network.

6. The service of claim 5 wherein the connectivity type is in the set: ad hoc, managed, unmanaged, unknown.

However, nothing in the art cited against claims 5 and 6 describes the specific method used in claim 18 to achieve the goal stated in the claim's preamble. Applicants respectfully submit that a claim cannot be rejected simply because its *preamble* is taught by the art: *Every element of the claim must be shown to be anticipated or rendered obvious*. The Office Action has not done this for claim 18, and therefore the rejection is not valid.

For exactly the same reason, applicants respectfully object to the rejection of independent claim 20: The elements of claim 20, as opposed to the purpose of claim 20's method as stated in its preamble, are not shown in the cited art.

In sum, applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 18 and 20, and of claims 19 and 21 which depend from these independent claims respectively, be withdrawn and that claims 18 through 21 be allowed.

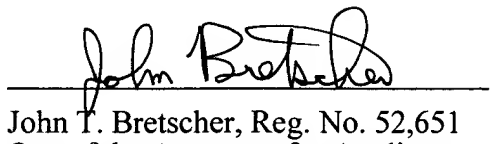
In order to focus the claims more clearly on the subject matter of the invention, claims 1 through 17 are cancelled, and new independent claims 22 and 27 are added. Claim 22 shows how a common application programming interface can be used to hide the details of the differing discovery techniques necessarily used on different types of networks. The support for claim 22 is found in the specification at, e.g., page 18, line 28, through page 19, line 15. New independent claim 27 is focused on the persistence of the names that the computing device generates for its network connections: "Persistence" meaning that the same name is generated when the computing device reconnects to the same network. Claim 27 is supported in the specification at page 19, line 16, through page 23, line 10. These two new independent claims are patentable over the cited because nothing in that art even remotely shows or hints at their elements. The other new claims are either dependent on these two new independent claims or are Beauregard versions of claims 22 and 27 (26 and 31, respectively) and thus are patentable for the same reasons as claims 22 and 27.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a

telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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